

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government – The bill decreases the authority of the Department of Education relating to curriculum review as it creates a new governmental committee for curriculum review. It also increases the responsibility of the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc. to approve membership of the curriculum review committee.

Safeguard individual liberty – The bill increases the chances of public secondary students to smoothly transition from high school to postsecondary education, the workplace, or both.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Current law requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop articulation accountability measures that assess the status of the systemwide articulation processes authorized in the statewide articulation agreements.¹

The SBE is also required to establish an articulation accountability process that addresses, at a minimum, the following:

- The impact of articulation processes on ensuring educational continuity and the orderly and unobstructed transition of students between public secondary and postsecondary education systems and facilitating the transition of students between the public and private sectors.
- The adequacy of preparation of public secondary students to smoothly articulate to a public postsecondary institution.
- The effectiveness of articulated acceleration mechanisms available to secondary students.
- The smooth transfer of community college associate in arts degree graduates to a state university.
- The examination of degree requirements that exceed the parameters of 60 credit hours for an associate degree and 120 hours for a baccalaureate degree in public postsecondary programs.
- The relationship between the College Level Academic Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper division in public postsecondary institutions.²

Effects of Proposed Changes

The bill requires the SBE to address, in their articulation accountability process, the adequacy of preparation of public secondary students to smoothly transition to the workforce as well as to all postsecondary education options, not just to a public postsecondary institution.

The bill requires the SBE to establish an expedited process for the continuous review of newly proposed high school courses to ensure rigor and relevancy to workforce and postsecondary education and alignment to state curriculum standards. The review would be conducted by an appointed curriculum committee that must be approved by the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc.

The appointed curriculum committee must be comprised of the following:

- Three high school guidance counselors recommended by the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators.

¹ Section 1008.38, F.S.

² Id.

- Three associate superintendents for curriculum and instruction recommended by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.
- Three workforce representatives recommended by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- Three admissions directors of postsecondary institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, representing both public and private institutions.
- The Deputy Commissioner of Education responsible for curriculum and instruction.

The committee must be established and operational no later than September 1, 2007.

The bill requires that the submission and review of these courses be done electronically and decisions of the committee regarding course eligibility must be made within 60 days of receipt. Approved courses would be included in the Course Code Directory and funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) the following fiscal year and would also be considered for possible dual enrollment and postsecondary credit. The Board of Governors and the Commissioner of Education are required to recommend an annual deadline for approval of these courses to be included in FEFP funding, postsecondary admissions, and dual enrollment.

The bill requires the SBE to establish an appeals process that requires a ruling by the Chancellor for Community Colleges and Workforce Education within 15 days.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1008.38, F.S., revising certain requirements of articulation accountability process established by the SBE; requiring the SBE to establish an expedited process for the review of newly proposed high school courses by an appointed curriculum committee; establishing the committee membership; requiring Workforce Florida, Inc. to approve committee; providing requirements for the review of courses; requiring approved courses to be included in funding the following year; requiring SBE to establish an appeals process.

Section 2. Provides that this act shall take effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

As of the date of this analysis, a fiscal analysis has not been received from the Department of Education. There may be minimal costs associated with the State Board of Education's duties related to the curriculum review of newly proposed postsecondary education courses. The bill does not provide an appropriation; therefore, the State Board of Education will have to implement the bill within existing resources.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

See Fiscal Impact on State Government Expenditures.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to require a city or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

The bill does not appear to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

The bill does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

No statement submitted.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES